Magars

The **Magar**, also spelled as **Mangar**, and **Mongar**, are the third largest ethno linguistic groups of Nepal representing 7.1% of Nepal's total population according to the Nepal census of 2011.

Magars of Nepal
मगर

Total population
1,877,733[1]
Languages
Magar language मगर भाषा
Religion
Buddhism, Hinduism and Bon

The original home of the Magar people was to the west of Gandaki river, and roughly speaking, consisted of that portion of Nepal which lies between and around about Gulmi, Argha, Khanchi, and Palpa.[2] This bit of country was divided into twelve districts known as Barha Magarat (Confederation of Twelve Magar Kingdoms) which included Satung, Pyung, Bhirkot, Dhor, Garhung, Rising, Ghiring, Gulmi, Argha, Khanchi, Musikot, Isma.[2] During the medieval period, the whole area from Palpa to Gorkha was called the *Magarat* as the area was inhabited by Magars.[3] A second Confederation of Eighteen Magar Kingdoms known as Athara Magarat also existed which was primarily inhabited by Kham Magars.

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Origin

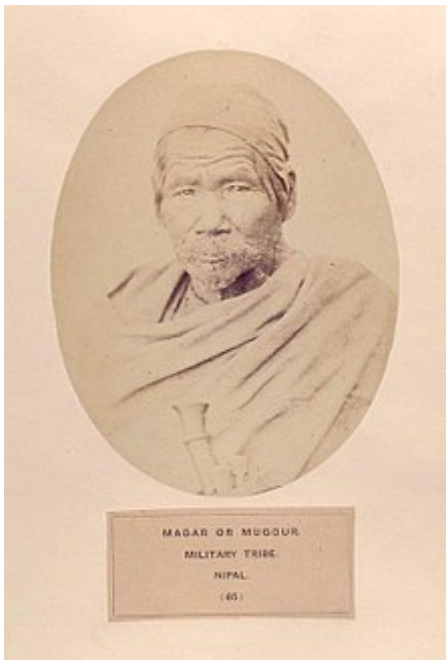
There are interesting mythical stories describing the origins of Magars. Three different versions relative to three different language groups are presented.[4]

The Magar of the Bahra Magarat east of the Kali Gandaki River are said to have originated in the land of Seem. Two brothers, Seem Magar and Chintoo Magar, fought, and one remained in Seem, while the other left, ending up in Kangwachen in southern Sikkim. The Bhutia people lived at the northern end of this region. Over time, the Magars became very powerful and made the northern Bhutia their vassals. Sintoo Sati Sheng ruled in a very despotic manner, and the Bhutia conspired to assassinate him. Sheng's queen took revenge and poisoned 1,000 Bhutia people at a place now called Tong Song Fong, meaning "where a thousand were murdered". The Bhutia later drove the Magar out, forcing them to again migrate further south. As part of this migration, one group migrated to Simrongadh, one group moved towards the Okhaldhunga region, and another group seems to have returned to the east. No dates are given.

History

The first written history about Magar people dates as back as 1100 AD.[5] The Magars are one of the oldest known tribes in Nepal. Magwar Bisaya was the ancient name of Magarat, Magar area. Magarat bordered from Marsyangdi river to the Pyuthan area during that time.[6] Furthermore, Magars prospered at such a level that this part of the country was divided into twelve districts, each under its own ruler - the *Barah*, or twelve *Magarant*[7] or twelve *Thams*, the members of each supposedly being of common extraction in the male line. Some records show these twelve areas as being Arghak, Khachi, Gulmi, Isma, Musikot, Ghiring, Rising, Bhirkot, Payung, Garhung, Dhor and Satung.[2][8] Among them, the most powerful kings were those of Gulmi, Argha, Khachi.[2] Broadly, the Twelve Magarat consisted of present-day Argha, Khanchi, Gulmi, Isma, Musikot, Ghiring, Baldengadhi, Rudrapurgadhi, Deuchuli, Tanahang/Tanu-hyula (Tanahu), Kanhu, Ligligkot, Gorkhakot, Bunkot, Bahrakot (Bahakot), Targhakot (Takukot), and Makawanpur areas.[9]

Magar group, military tribe, Nepal



Magar man, military tribe, Nepal

The Magars of the middle and western regions also played an important role in Nepal's formative history. Their kingdom was one of the strongest of west Nepal in and around Palpa District during the time of the 22 and 24 *rajya* principalities (17th and early 18th centuries).[10] Dravya Shah captured Gorkhakot, the last Magarat area, from the Magar King, Mansingh Khadka Magar in BS 1616 Bhadra 25.[11] In the kingdoms of Gorkha and Musikot, the Magars even seem to have taken part in their own initial defeat, revealing both the weakness of their ethnic solidarity at that time and the presence of clan rivalries.[12] As mentioned in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal founded by Sir William Jones in 1784, the city of Gorkha was originally the residence of Chitoria (Chitorey) Rana Magars, and the city was built by them. To this day, large numbers of Chitoria/Chitorey Rana Magars are found in the Gorkha

District.[2] Additionally, in the Manakamana Temple located in Gorkha, it is mandatory for a priest to be a Magar; specifically, the priest must be a descendant of Saint Lakhan Thapa Magar, who is described as a spiritual guide for Ram Shah, and he had a very close relationship with the queen, who was considered an incarnation of the Goddess.[12] Interestingly, the main priests of Kalika, the goddess protecting the kingdoms of Lamjung and Gorkha, were also Bohara Magars; it is striking to note how the Magars have been in charge of the religious functions linked to the very source of Thakuri power.[12] The 18th-century king, Prithvi Narayan Shah, the founder of the modern Kingdom of Nepal announced and loved to call himself ' the King of Magarat' or 'the King of Magar country'.[12][13] According to Marie Lecomte-Tilouine, a senior researcher in Social Anthropology at the French National Center for Scientific Research, Prithvi Narayan Shah narrated in his autobiography about praying to a goddess whom he described as 'the daughter of Rana [Magar].[12] During the time of King Prithvi Narayan, Rana Magars were one of the six-member courtiers (*Tharghar*).[12] Prithvi Narayan Shah in his memories also recalls his Magar *dada*— the man who looked after him during his childhood.[12]

Many prominent historians of Nepal have claimed that Aramudi, an eighth-century ruler of the Kali Gandaki region, was a Magar King.[14][15][16][17] "Aramudi" derives from the word for 'river' in the Magar language.[18] 'Ari'-'Source of Water' + 'Modi'-'River'='Arimodi' or 'Aramudi', thus the literal meaning of Aramudi is *source of river*. But due to the lack of historical evidence, there are some conflicting ideas among the historians. Sen dynasty of Palpa were Magar Kings[19][12] as per the hand-written treatise 'Naradsmriti' [20] and history books written in Sikkim.[21] In a palm-leaf manuscript kept in the Kaiser Library, dated 1567 VS (1510), Mukunda Sen is described as a Magar king of Palpa who invaded the Kathmandu Valley in 1581 VS (1524).[12] Thus, in the 17th century, Malla kings of Kathmandu valley were united to fight back the invasion of Magars from Palpa.[22] One of Mukunda Sen's wives was also the daughter of the Magar King of Parkogha: Mahadevi Suvarnamala, and she had three sons: Manishya Sen, Imbarsen and Kuvar Sen.[12] Similarly, Gajalaxman Singh, Magar King of Makvanpur, whose daughter Kantivati was married to Abhaya Sen (Magar King) of Palpa.[12][23] From her was born the great king of kings Bhattarajadeva.[12] Around 1700, the ruler of Baldeng (near present-day Butwal) was overthrown by Palpa and other *chaubisi* states, and he was supposedly a Magar king.[19] According to the earliest copper plate inscription from Nepal found in 1977, Sohab Rana Magar was a ruler in Dullu Dailekh, Magwar Bisaya, western Nepal in 1100 AD.

Geographical distribution

At the time of the 2011 Nepal census, 1,887,733 people (7.1% of the population of Nepal) identified as Magar. The frequency of Magar people was higher than national average in the following districts:[24]

Palpa (52.3%)

Rolpa (43.2%)

Myagdi (39.5%)

Pyuthan (32.6%)

Baglung (28.0%)

Tanahun (26.9%)

Rukum (23.8%)

Syangja (21.5%)

Gulmi (20.7%)

Surkhet (18.9%)

Arghakhanchi (18.0%)

Nawalparasi (17.5%)

Salyan (15.1%)

Sindhuli (14.9%)

Udayapur (13.9%)

Dang (13.6%)

Dolpa (12.5%)

Gorkha (11.6%)

Okhaldhunga (11.2%)

Ramechhap (11.1%)

Parbat (11.0%)

Rupandehi (10.7%)

Dhankuta (9.7%)

Dailekh (9.2%)

Jajarkot (9.0%)

Kaski (8.6%)

Dhading (8.5%)

Mustang (8.3%)

Subdivisions

Magars are divided into the following six tribes *(clans)* listed here in an alphabetical order: Ale, Bura/Burathoki, Gharti, Pun, Rana, Thapa. These tribes all intermarry with each other, have the same customs, and are in every way equal as regards to social standing. Each tribe is subdivided into many sub-clans.[2][25]

Ale Magars:

Arghali, Hiski, Hungchen, Limel, Pade, Rakhal, Suyal, Sirpali to name a few.

Burathoki Magars:

Barakoti, Gamal, Jugjali, Pahari, Thami, Ulange to name a few.

Gharti Magars:

Dagami, Galami, Kalikotey, Masrangi, Pahari or Panre, Phagami, Rangu, Rawal, Rijal, Sawangi, Sene, Surai, Sinjapati, Talaji, Tirukia, Wale to name a few.

Pun Magars:

Balali, Birkali, Baijali, Burduja, Garbuja, Namjali, Phungali, Purja, Sain, Sanangi, Sothi, Tajali to name a few.

Rana Magars:

Aachhami, Aslami, Bangling, Chumi, Chitorey/Chitaurey, Darlami, Gyangmi/Gyami, Kharka/Khadka, Kyapchaki, Lamchanney, Lungeli, Makkim, Maski, Palli, Pulami, Rilami, Ruchal, Shrees, Surjabansi/Suryabangsi to name a few.

Thapa Magars:

To name a few— Āthaghare, Bagale, Bakabal, Bakheti, Balal, Balami, Bāhraghare/Baraghare, Birkatta, Kala, Khapangi, Palunge, Puwar/Punwar, Sunari, Sāthighare, Setu, Sinjali/Singjali.

Gaha Thapa consists of Bucha, Chidi, Gora, khan or khangaha/khanga

Reshmi Thapa consists of Dangal

Saru Thapa consists of Jhapurluk, Jhendi/Jhedi, Kala. Besides these, Gurbachan, Purbachhaney, Phounja, Pachabhaiya, Khamcha, Khandaluk, Ghale, Baral, Somai, Pithakote, Jhakote, Rakaskoti/Raskoti, Uchai, Samal, Ramjali.

In former days, any Thapa who had lost three generations of ancestors in battle became a Rana, but with the prefix of his Thapa clan. Thus, a Reshmi Thapa would become a Reshmi Rana.[2][26] An instance of this is to be found in the 5th Gurkhas, where a *havildar,* Lachman Thapa, and a naick, Shamsher Rana, descended from the two Thapa [Magars] brothers; but three generations of descendants from one of these brothers having been killed in the battle, Shamsher Rana's ancestors assumed the title of Rana while Lachman Thapa's ancestors not having been killed in battle for three generations remained a Thapa. From this custom many Rana sub clans are said to have sprung up, and this would lead one to believe that the Rana-Magar clan was looked up to amongst the Magars.[2]

The Rana clan of Magar tribes are thought to belong to the same stock of Thapa, but when they were separated from their original group and lost for three generations, they settled in a place called Gorkha and called themselves by the name of *Rana* which means chief. Thus, the inhabitants of Rana Magar became the Gorkha village. Later on, Khas people came from Kumaon and Garhwal and mixed with the Magars and became one with them 'till they were not converted into Hinduism.[25] The **Matwala Khas** are generally the progeny of a Khas of Western Nepal with a Magar woman of Western Nepal. If the woman happens to belong to the Rana clan of the Magar tribe, progeny is then called a Bhat Rana.[2][26] The *Matwala Khas* doesn't wear the thread. He eats and drinks, and in every way assimilates himself with

the Magars and Gurungs. He invariably claims to be a Magar. Among the *Matwala Khas* are to found those who call themselves Bohra, Roka, Chohan, Jhankri, Konwar and Uchai (Uchai = progeny of Thakur with a Magar).[26][2]

Linguistically, the Magars are divided into three groups. Baraha Magaratis speak Dhut dialect, whereas Athara Magaratis speak Pang and Kaike dialects.

Magar Dhut speakers: Rana, Ale, Thapa, Gaha, Saru.

Magar Kham speakers: Bura/Budha/Budhathoki, Pun, Roka, Gharti, Thajali, Garbuja, Sherpunja, Pahare, Paija.

Magar Kaike speakers: Tarali Magar of Dolpa; Budha, Gharti, Roka, Rokaya, Kayat, Jhankri all Magar clans residing in Dolpa and Karnali districts.

Language and Script

Of the 1,887,733 Magar population in Nepal, about 788,530 speak Magar language as their mother tongue while the rest speak Nepali as their mother tongue. The western inhabitants of Nepal did not speak the language in the past. But recently, almost everyone has started learning the language. The Magar languages are rooted in the Bodic branch of the Tibetan family.

The Magar language, *Magar Kura*, is spoken in two major dialects and a number of sub dialects reflecting the geographic distribution of the group. The Western Magars of Rapti Zone speak Magar Kham language. In Dolpa District, Magars speak Magar Kaike language. Magar Dhut language speakers are all Magar clans residing in Twelve Magarat. Similarly Magar Kham language speakers are all Magar clans from Eighteen Magarat. Magar Kaike language speakers are all Magar clans in Karnali zone.

Magar Akkha scripts have been used in Sikkim as a Magar language script. Many scholars including MS Thapa have been in forefront to implement the Akkha script to write Magar language in Nepal. New generations have been learning it. Akkha script is said to be closely associated with Brahmi script. Some researchers had found Brahmi script used during the time of Yalambar, the Magar King of Palpa (Baldengadi) in the 12th century.

Magar Words in Use

Many Magar words are used even today, especially as location names. Magar toponyms in Nepali include: *tilaurakot* (*place selling sesame seed*), *kanchanjunga* (*clear peak*), and * *Tansen* (*straight wood*)[27] Some scholars opine that the amount of Magar words in Nepali indicates that *Magarat* (historic Magar lands) were larger than generally believed, extending from Dhading to Doti.[28] They note that the place suffix *-Kot* indicates a place from which Magar kings formerly ruled. Kali Gadaki (Gandi), Rapti, Bheri, Marsyangdi, Modi all the river names with *di* or *ti* suffix are named after Magar language. Similarly, places like Thabang, Libang, Bobang, Baglung (Banglung) etc. are also named after the Magar language.

Religion

Magars follow Buddhism, Hinduism and Bon. The original religions or beliefs of Magar people are Shamanism, Animism, Ancestor worship, Hinduism and northern Nepal's Magar follow Shamanism(Bon).

Magars are the main priests of the famous Manakamana Temple in Gorkha District, Budha Subba Temple in Dharan and Alamdevi temple (Nepal's former Shah Kings' mother Goddess or family deity) in Syangja District. In Manakamana Temple, specially, the priest must be a descendant of Saint Lakhan Thapa Magar, who is described as a spiritual guide for Ram Shah, and he had a very close relationship with the queen, who was considered an incarnation of the Goddess Durga Bhawani, an incarnation of Parvati.[12] Similarly, Bhirkot, Gahraukot, Khilung, Nuwakot, Satahukot, Sarankot, Dhor, Lamjung, Gorkha Kalika, Salyankot Dhading also have Magar priests-Saru, Baral, Saru, Saru, Pulami, Chumi, Darlami, DudhrRana, Bhusal/Maski, Saru/Rana Magar respectively.[29]

Magars of Western Nepal have been practicing Lamaismshamanism during their kul pooja.

Interestingly, the main priests of Kalika, the goddess protecting the kingdoms of Lamjung and Gorkha, were also Bohara Magars; it is striking to note how the Magars have been in charge of the religious functions linked to the very source of Thakuri power.[12]

Most Magars also follow a form of Tibetan Buddhism, with priests known as *bhusal*, forming the religious hierarchy. Buddhism is an important part of the culture even in the southern districts, where the Magars have developed a syncretic form of Hinduism that combines earlier shamanistic and Buddhist rituals with Hindu traditions.

Animists and shamanism form part of the local belief system; their dhami (the faith healer or a kind of shaman) is called Dangar and their jhankri (another kind of faith healer or shaman) was the traditional spiritual and social leader of the Magars.[30] Magars have an informal cultural institution, called *Bhujel*, who performs religious activities, organizes social and agriculture-related festivities, brings about reforms in traditions and customs, strengthens social and production system, manages resources, settles cases and disputes and systematizes activities for recreation and social solidarity.[31]

Dress and Ornaments

The Magar of the low hills wear the ordinary *kachhad* or wrap-on-loincloth, a *bhoto* or a shirt of vest, and the usual Nepali topi. The women wear the *phariya* or *lunghi*, *chaubandhi cholo* or a closed blouse and the heavy *patuka* or waistband, and the *mujetro* or shawl-like garment on the head. Men living in the Tarakot area even wear the Tibetan *chhuba*. The ornaments are the *madwari* on the ears, *bulaki* on the nose and the *phuli* on the left nostril, the silver coin necklace"[haari]" and the *pote* (yellow and Green beads) with the *tilhari* gold cylinder, [jantar], [dhungri], [naugedi], [phul] and *kuntha*. Magar males do not wear many ornaments, but some are seen to have silver earrings, hanging from their earlobes, called *"gokkul"*. The magar girls wear the amulet or locket necklace, and women of the lower hills and the high-altitude ones wear these made of silver with muga stones embedded in them and *kantha*. The bangles of

silver and glass are also worn on their hands along with the *sirbandhi*, *sirphuli* and *chandra* on their heads. These are large pieces of gold beaten in elongated and circular shapes

Magar Culture

Festivals

Maghe Sakranti is considered to be one of the most important annual festivals of the indigenous Magar community. In fact, Maghe Sakranti is the government declared national festival of the Magar community as well as the Tharu community (2009 AD). It is celebrated on the first day of Magh (ninth month of the Nepali calendar, in mid-January), a time that marks the transition from winter to spring. According to the Magar terminology, Maghe Sakranti commemorates the end of *udheli* (literally 'down'), which is a period that lasts for six months starting from mid-July, and the initiation of *ubheli* ('up'), the period lasting for another six months starting from the mid-January. The down and up periods probably correspond to the annual cycle of herding livestock up and down from high pastures, a historically important economic activity of the Magars. The occasion is celebrated with a host of gatherings and special invitations to *chelibetis*, one's daughters and other female members of the family. Traditional Magar songs and dances are also performed. One of the most prominent food items prepared on this day (or any other celebratory occasion) is known as *batuk* (commonly known as 'bara'). It is considered to be a traditional food of the Magar people. Shaped like western doughnuts, it is made from black lentils that have been soaked for over twenty-four hours and are grounded to form a thick paste. It is then mixed with salt, pepper and turmeric and fried in oil. A perfect round shape is formed with the help of the palm, and a small distinct hole is made in the center.

Other major festivals of the Magar community are Bhume Puja, Chandi Purnima, Baisakhe Purnima, Mangsir Purnima, Jestha Purnima. Bhume Puja (worshipping the nature) is immensely celebrated in the Athara Magarat regions (Confederation of eighteen Magar Kingdoms), especially in Rukum and Rolpa districts.

Folk Songs and Dances

Magars have contributed phenomenally in Nepali folk songs and dances. Both men and women take part in folk songs and dances. The important folk songs are *Sarungya*, *Tappa*, *Lahare Tappa*, *Garra*, *Khamta*, *Chokra*, *Samala*, *Khali*, *Bibhas*, *Sohrathi*, *Asis*, *Sunimaya*, *Yanimaya*, and *Maruni* songs. Magar dances comprise of *Sarungya* dance, *Tappa* dance, *Kaura* dance of unmarried girls, *Chudka* dance, *Jhyaure* dance, *Salaijyo* dance, *Singura* dance, *Paisari* dance and *Maruni* dance.

One of the most well-known Magar folk-dances is the *Maruni* dance during Tihar festival.[32] In this dance, the main dancer wears a woman's dress, has someone to mimic her dance and one person to beat a *Madal* or *Rani Madal*. This dance is believed to be of divine origin and is directly linked with mythology. The role of the person beating the *Madal* is considered to be the most important, and even the one who mimics the main dancer is actually considered to be the protectors of the dancer. He wears a mask, entertains the crowd by his own gestures etc. The wearing of the dress by the dance is given a ritualistic position, as the dancer's dress, are elaborately laid along with flowers, rice etc. on a brass plate or a winnower. The dance begins with the worship of *Madal*, the dress, and other ornaments to be used by the

dancer, followed by obeisance to all gods and goddesses like Saraswati, Ram, Sita. The dance ends with blessings to the family that has offered alms to the dancing group and brings the end to the dance ritualistically.

Singing and dancing is accompanied by musical instruments such as Macheta, Madal, Rani Madal, Salaijyo Damphu, Naumati Baja etc.[32]

Macheta: brass cymbal used in Tappa songs and dances; mostly used in Rukum, Rolpa, Salyan areas of Nepal in all happy occasions of all Nepali tribes now

Madal: originally the musical instrument of Magar tribes, but now the most popular musical instrument of the entire Nepali; it is made of wood and skin— with *khari* in the middle of both end, the bigger side is known as *bhalle* while the smaller side is known as *pothi*.

Rani Madal: bigger madal used by the Magars of Pachim Anchal - west of Palpa, mainly used while singing Sunimaya, Yanimaya etc.

Occupations

Agriculture and the military are the primary sources of income. Magars constitute the largest number of *Gurkha* soldiers outside Nepal.[33][34] Sarbajit Rana Magar became the head of government during the regency of Queen Rajendra Laxmi.[35] Biraj Thapa Magar winner of limbuwan, General Abhiman Singh Rana Magar and Sarbajit Rana Magar headed the Nepal army. Biraj Thapa Magar was the very first army chief in Nepal Army's history.[36] Magars are famous as gallant warriors wherever they served in the past. The Magars are well represented in Nepal's military, as well as in the Singapore Police Force, the British and Indian Gurkha regiments. They are also employed as professionals in the fields of medicine, education, government service, law, journalism, development, aviation and in business in Nepal and other countries.

Dor Bahadur Bista's observation of Magar's occupation during the 1960s was:

> Some of the northernmost Magars have become quite prosperous by engaging in long-range trading that takes them from near the northern border to the Terai, and even beyond to Darjeeling and Calcutta. Were it not for their role in the Gurkha regiments of the Indian and British armies, their self-sufficiency might be endangered.[37]

Toni Hagen, who did his field research in Nepal during the 1950s, observed:

> Magars possess considerable skill as craftsmen: they are the bridge builders and blacksmiths among the Nepalese, and the primitive mining is largely in their hands. On the lower courses of the Bheri & Karnali rivers, a great number of Magars annually migrate to the Terai & there manufacture bamboo panniers, baskets, and mats for sale in the bazaars along the borders. In their most northerly settlement, on the other hand, the important trading centre of Tarakot on the Barbung river, they have largely adopted their way of life, their clothes, and their religion to that of the Tibetans; like the latter, they also live by the salt trade. As regard race, the Magars have almond-shaped eyes or even open eyes, whereas Mongoloid eyes are very rare.[38]

Military service

A number of Magars have distinguished themselves in military service under Nepali, British and Indian military. During Anglo-Nepalese War 1814-1816 the famous Magar Unit/Paltan of Nepali Army, Purano Gorakh Battalion, valiantly fought Battle of Nalapani against British East India Company Force. Brigadier General Sher Jung Thapa received Mahavir Chakra and Lieutenant Colonel Dhan Singh Thapa won Paramvir Chakra, the highest gallantry award, while serving Indian Army. Similarly, Dipprasad Pun, a Nepalese Sergeant of the Royal Gurkha Rifles (British Army), was the first Nepali winner of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross in Afghanistan in 2010. In the two world wars, a total of five Victoria Cross (out of 13 VCs awarded to Gurkhas) were awarded to the Magars:[39]

- First World War:
  - Rifleman Kulbir Thapa was the very first Gurkha to win VC in recognition of his valor and bravery. He was from Gulmi, Bharse. He served in 2/3 Gurkha Regiment (GR). He received VC in France in 1915.
  - Rifleman Karanbahadur Rana, Gulmi was from 2/3 GR. He received VC in Egypt in 1918.
- Second World War:
  - Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa, Nepal Tara[40] was from 2nd GR. He received VC in Tunisia in 1943.
  - Honorary Lieutenant Tul Bahadur Pun was from 6th GR. He received VC in Burma in 1944.
  - Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa was from 5th GR. He received VC in Burma in 1944.

Notable Magars

- Saint Lakhan Thapa (17th century), a spiritually famed associate and adviser to King Ram Shah and the very first Priest of Manakamana Temple.
- Kaji Biraj Thapa Magar of Gorkha, the 'King Maker'. From the list of people with title Kaji, Kaji (Nepal).
- Kaji Biraj Thapa Magar, the very first Chief of Gorkhali Army, 18th century.
- Kaji Sarbajit Rana Magar, Nepalese Army Chief and prominent politician, 18th century.
- Martyr Lakhan Thapa Magar (19th century), the very first martyr of Nepal.
- Kaji Abhiman Singh Rana Magar, Nepalese Army Chief, 19th century. He was the first victim of Kot massacre.
- Master Mitrasen Thapa, famous Nepali folk singer, social worker, resident of Bhagsu/Dharmasala, (India).
- Giri Prasad Burathoki, only Bada Hakim from Magars, Defense Minister, Honorary Major General of Nepalese Army.
- Late Professor Jagat Bahadur Singh Burathokey, Father of Geography of Nepal.
- Narayan Singh Pun, a former minister in Nepal, pilot and lieutenant colonel in the Royal Nepal Army. Also founding president of Nepal Samata Party.
- Balaram Gharti Magar, held different ministries for 11 times including Defense Minister of Nepal Government.
- Dr Harsha Bahadur Budha Magar, Magar historian.
- Gore Bahadur Khapangi, former minister and founding leader of Prajatantrik Janamukti Party.

- Rom Bahadur Thapa, First Inspector General of Nepal Police from Magar ethnic group.
- Khadgajeet Baral, Ex IGP Chief of Nepal Police and former Ambassador of Myanmar.
- Durlav Kumar Thapa, Ex IGP Chief of Nepal Police.
- Onsari Gharti Magar, the first female speaker of Parliament of Nepal.
- Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal, Home minister of Nepal, leader Nepal Communist Party.
- Barsaman Pun, first finance minister of Nepal from Magar community. He is from Rolpa district.
- Nanda Bahadur Pun, first vice president of federal republic Nepal.
- Tham Maya Thapa, Women and Children Minister.
- Kuber Singh Rana, Ex IGP Chief of Nepal Police from Palpa.
- Mahabir Pun, Magsaysay Award winner for extending wireless technologies in rural parts of Nepal.
- Arun Thapa, popular Nepali singer.
- Jagdish Samal, Prominent Nepali Singer.
- Teriya Magar, Nepali dancer, winner of Dance India Dance Little Masters 2014
- Nirmal Purja, famous mountaineer and Ex-British Gurkha soldier, numerous Guinness World Records holder in mountaineering.
- Bimal Gharti Magar, Football player.
- Hemanta Rana, Famous Nepali Contemporary Singer.
- Aasis Rana aka Laure, popular Nepali rapper, actor, television personality.

Politics

Under the leadership of minister Giri Prasad Burathoki, a first ever Magar Convention was held in Bharse of Gulmi District, one of the 12 Magarats in 1957. The objective of the conference was to sensitize the Magars to come forward in the national spectrum.[41]

Later Magar political and social organisations included Nepal Langhali Pariwar (1972), Nepal Langhali Pariwar Sang, and Langhali Pariwar Sangh. Ram Bahadur Thapa

Notes

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